

Author name: K. Faltas

Date of submission: Wednesday, 20 March 2019

[REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 7 March 2019 9:09 AM

To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: Port Stephens Council Special Variation Application

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am a resident of this area and I'm writing in strident objection to this proposed rate increase.

The proposed increase is cumulative and will make rates over 60% more, this is at a time of stagnant wage growth and rising cost of living.

Being a regional area, some properties are acreages and this will dramatically increase rates by over \$1,000 per year.

This is also a low socioeconomic area with a large number of retirees and people on low fixed incomes that cannot afford such a huge increase.

It's not like this council has been prudent with ratepayer's money; they've wasted thousands of dollars fighting each other in court and making ratepayers pay for it, the same ratepayers they're now crying poor to.

They built a disastrous intersection at Town Centre Circuit, Salamander Bay where they went against all road rules and made left turn give way to right turn.

This resulted in several accidents and forced the closure of the intersection, wonder how much that cost?

The overwhelming feedback Council has received has been against this increase, yet they seem determined to proceed and ignore concerns.

I'm still at a loss why the council needs the money, the only community consultation was advertised in my local paper on the same day it was being held, which I received 1 hour after the meeting finished.

I also don't understand why the council can't ask for a state government grant instead of from those who can least afford it.

For these reasons I implore IPART to reject this submission.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Kam Faltas